

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet(s) include changes to Figure 1. Figure 1 has been changed to identify the figure as “Prior Art.” No other changes have been made.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed July 5, 2007, claims 1 – 10, 14 – 16, and 18 were rejected. Additionally, claims 11 – 13, 17, and 19 were allowed. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, and 13 – 16 and hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims and the below-provided remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 11, 13, 17, and 19 are allowed. Applicant also notes that claims 1 – 10, 14 – 16, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112 as set forth in the Office action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the phrase “any number of cascading of the following” in the preamble. Claim 1, as amended, recites a definite combination of elements. Claim 1 has also been amended to remove the reference number “215.” In view of the amendments, Applicant asserts that the claim 1 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 has been amended to remove the phrase “a sequence of cascading” in the preamble. Claim 3, as amended, recites a definite combination of elements. Claim 3 has also been amended to remove the reference number “205” and to correct a typographical error, changing “a random numbers” to “random numbers.” In view of the amendments, Applicant asserts that the claim 3 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 14 has been amended to remove the phrase “to provide an input to a random number generator.” In view of the amendment, Applicant asserts that claim 14 is now consistent with step (g) of claim 13.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite “the predetermined criteria used to reset the *counts*” instead of “the predetermined criteria used to reset the counters.” Applicant asserts that antecedent basis for “counts” is provided in claim 13, step (f), which recites “said metastability detectors counting a number of times...”

Although not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, claim 13, step (g) has been amended to remove the phrase “is selected” such that the step (g) recites “selecting one flip-flop of the pair of flip-flops [*is selected*] to generate...”

Claim 16 is dependent on claim 15 and has been amended to coincide with the amendment to claim 15.

Objection to the Specification

Paragraph [0023] (as found in U.S. Pat. Publ. No. 2005/0004959 A1) has been amended to identify the serial number and patent number of the referenced application.

Objection to the Drawings

Figure 1 has been amended to identify the figure as "Prior Art." No other changes have been made.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 4, 2007.

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